

Joint Meeting of Budget Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes ~ Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 7 PM
Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: Greg Johnson, Jeff Swanberg, Justine St John, Peter Campbell, Jillian Prendergast,
Mary Brannelly, Laurie Plourdi, David Gavin
Absent: Natasha Rivera

Justine made a motion to elect Jeff Swanberg as the Chair of the Subcommittee for the 2021-2022 year; 2nd by Mary; all in favor.

Mary and Justine will alternate meetings taking the minutes.

Laurie gave an end of year summary for FY2021; she hopes to have the final numbers by 9/30/21.

American Rescue Plan:

- ❖ \$3.3 M has been allocated to the Town of Maynard; some checks have arrived.
- ❖ Water/sewer will be receiving a significant amount of the funds ~ they will be utilized to put a good plan in place that we can work from in making decisions going forward; the funds won't result in a new facility.
- ❖ The schools are asking for benefits of ESSER positions to be paid from the ARPA funds; ARPA funds can be partially used for health plans
- ❖ The town auditors noted that it is their understanding that using Federal \$ for a single individual, split between two funds (ESSER & ARPA)~ or cost sharing ~ is not allowed.
- ❖ Greg met with Superintendent Brian Haas and School Business Manager Wayne White to discuss this issue.
- ❖ Greg said that ARPA funds can be used to hire a consultant to look at this scenario as well as to do the processing related to the ARPA funds. The town auditors think it's a good idea to hire a consultant and gave the names of 2 grant companies.
- ❖ Greg noted that we have the green light to provide the benefits to the ESSER related school personnel, subject to the advice of counsel. Mary noted that without that assistance from the town, the 3rd year of ESSER funds will be absorbed by the benefits for the ESSER positions.
- ❖ Jeff asked if there is another cost that could be paid fully from the ARPA fund to help the schools; we'll wait to see what a consultant advises.

Solar Array Project

- ❖ The town has approached the runner up company, Kearsarge, (Sun Power was the lead company we had been working with) to ask if they would consider re-submitting their proposal do the solar project without the south Green Meadow Field. One of the things we didn't like about Kearsarge is their proposal to use so much of the Fowler School parking area; we'd want them to focus on the high school. Another thing that we liked about SunPower is that they have their own equipment. A new design pitch was requested in order to present to the public.
- ❖ Beth Greensplat, our Solar consultant, said that Eversource is also looking at all proposed solar array projects to be tied into the energy grid and really wanted commitments "yesterday".
- ❖ Transferring to Kearsarge would include the Smart Block position with the State. SunPower is requesting that if Kearsarge replaces them with a Solar Array Project, that SunPower be reimbursed by Kearsarge for the \$100,000 in time/resources spent on their plans and achievements so far. Those costs may be assumed by another company (Kearsarge), which would be applied against the town's potential revenue..
- ❖ We talked about the possibility of having solar projects being independent building based vs big projects that span bigger areas. The benefit may not be as significant (no likely yielding revenue) but it would create utility savings. Mary noted that a similar thought process was the initial plan when this project first started.
- ❖ Greg will talk to the Select Board about abandoning the Solar Array Project that was initially outlined by SunPower.

Fy23 Budget Development

- ❖ Greg summarized the Preliminary FY23 Budget for the group.
- ❖ He highlighted “Local Receipts”, which shows \$2,875,000 for FY22 vs \$2,835,000 for FY23, or a \$40,000 reduction for FY23. One of the marijuana shops paid their quarterly \$40,000 earlier than they had to, resulting in the adjusted FY22 #
- ❖ We may see more Local Receipts for FY23 when the additional Mexican Restaurant opens at 129 Parker St
- ❖ This \$40,000 will go into the General Fund because it can be used more freely by the town.
- ❖ The other 3%, or \$40,000 has to be utilized as Community Impact Funds. Greg wants to put this money in a specific separate fund to be clear about where the funds are being used.
 - The Town will vote on the usage of these specific funds each year at Town Meeting (similar to Free Cash)
 - Peter suggested spending the full amount of Community Impact Funds each year to show the Marijuana places that we are utilizing the funds (vs some other cities/towns who are not utilizing the funds)
 - Peter suggested that we use these funds to offset the operating budget (possibly a specific part of the School Resource Officer’s job, for instance); however, we can’t count on the same specific amount each year.
 - Justine suggested that we ask Hudson and Ayer how they are using the Community Impact Funds because they are further ahead than Maynard (their shops opened earlier)
 - The Host Agreements are good for 5 years before we have to renegotiate
- ❖ The Town Charter asks the Select Board to send out a Budget letter to the departments early in the year. The different departments will be asked to look at the Master Plan objectives as they are putting together their budgets

The next Joint Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee will be Thursday, September 30th, 7 PM.

Greg also mentioned that a TriBoard Meeting is being scheduled for Tuesday, October 12th at 7 PM. Mary will let the School Committee members know.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.